

like to introduce former Senator Tom Kennedy from District 21. Tom, would you step forward. From DeWitt, we have former Senator Willard Waldo. Senator Waldo is not here? I thought I saw him here earlier, but Senator Waldo was with us. Senator Merle VonMinden from Allen. Senator Don Elrod from the 35th District. And a very special guest because he gave up his legislative district so I could have one, we have from the 14th District, which geographically is now Senator Lynch's area, former Senator Tom Fitzgerald. And don't blame him too much for having given up that district, somebody had to, so...but he was the one. Former Senator and former Lieutenant Governor Don McGinley. Former Senator Emil Beyer. Former Senator Jim Dickinson from the 31st District. Former Senator Carson Rogers from Ord. Former Senator Gerry Cook from Ralston. Former Senator Harry Chronister from Schuyler. Former Senator Lowell Johnson who is just coming back in, there we go, Lowell. Former Senator Wiley Remmers. Former Senator Bill Nichol, and former Lieutenant Governor, I should have mentioned also. Former Senator Shirley Marsh from Lincoln. Former Senator Dale Payne from Gretna. Former Senator Dennis Rasmussen from Lincoln. From Coleridge, former Senator Elroy Hefner. From Grand Island, former Senator Ralph Kelly. Former Senator Swanson from Lincoln, Bill Swanson. Former Senator Lee Rupp. And former Senator Wally Barnett. Let's have a nice round of applause for all the former senators that are here today and also all of those who were unable to come down today, but people who have helped solve problems before us so we don't have to deal with them now and those that have helped create the problems that we're dealing with here today, so let's have a nice round of applause to all of them. Now, Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, truly, Senator Withem, I did not need that much time to gather my thoughts. I stand, I guess, undecided at this point about which of these amendments I may or may not support. It seems to me Senator Avery calls on us to be fiscally responsible, but my comments when I stated support for including the \$8 million for teacher was based on what I believed we also have to do in order to be ethical members of this body. As long as we have in statute a directive and an amount of money that we are to follow, I believe that we need to be responsible and follow the laws that we have created for others. I believe that's the same argument we heard this morning on another bill. I would say, in fact, the Governor gave us his priorities. The Appropriations Committee came to the body with their priorities.